



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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School Committee Minutes 03/08/2012

Approved by Arlington School Committee April 12, 2012

*Arlington School Committee
March 8, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curro, Jr., Ms. Leba Heigham, and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA Representative, Amanda Clayton, Student Representatives and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Interim Special Education Director, and AAA Representative

Mr. Spiegel arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Curro exited at 8:03 p.m. and returned 8:05 p.m.

Public Participation

None

Approval of 2012-2013 School Year Calendar Start Date

Dr. Bodie presented the 2012-2013 School Year Calendar to the School Committee for approval for the start date of the school year. All additional school calendar items will be voted on at a later date.

Mr. Curro moved that the Arlington School Committee approve the Arlington Public Schools 2012-2013 School Calendar on Students First Day of School: Thursday, September 6, 2012, and for the First Day of School for Kindergarteners: Monday September 10, 2012, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham, chair of the Community Relations Subcommittee would like her committee to review the school calendar before it is brought to the full school committee members.

FY 13 Budget Finalized

Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson presented the Proposed Budget with additional information dated March 8, 2012 to the full School Committee members for approval. The committee appreciated the detail of charts and graphs, which Ms. Johnson included in the report.

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee decrease the Kindergarten Fee expectation in the APS Budget to \$970,000, and to change the LABB Credit expectation of \$51,199, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Pierce Abstained

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Total of All Funding \$50,534,524., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Elementary Total \$10,726,332., seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Secondary Total \$11,141,681, Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Special Education Total \$15,611,886, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Curriculum & Instruction Total \$1,352,499, seconded by Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Administration Total \$ 3,681,511, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe moved that the full School Committee approve the FY 13 Budget Transfer Summary, Other Total (Facilities, IT and Transportation) \$5,853,675.,seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

EDCO Decision

Dr. Bodie presented the EDCO Collaborative letters dated February 23, 2012 from Dorsey Yearley, Executive Director regarding Governance Issues Related to the EDCO Collaborative and the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston. Dr. Bodie informed the committee members that Ms. Yearley would be willing to speak the full School Committee at a later meeting. The School Committee members were in agreement to support the incredible partnership with EDCO. After Dr. Bodie asked the committee members to review the documents and the motion to dissolve ECGB as a first read, the committee informed the chair and Dr. Bodie they had enough information before them to support the motion and vote on this motion this evening.

Dr. Allison-Ampe made the following motion: “move that the Arlington School Committee vote to dissolve ECGB, Inc. by June 30, 2012 or as soon as legally possible thereafter, and further that our representatives for EDCO and ECGB, Inc. be authorized to take all necessary steps to transfer all programs, contracts and available assets, including the Seefurth Fund, from ECGB, Inc. to EDCO by the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2012, or as soon as legally possible thereafter.” seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie presented the Redistricting Advisory Committee birth year by town census data for K enrollment and the DRAFT 4 map of the redistricting lines. Dr. Bode spoke about AHS Musical Department; Tino D'Agostino being nominated for the Golden Award and to the Visual Arts Department on the Boston Globe sponsored Scholastic Art Awards for 22 high school students and 4 middle school students. Dr. Bodie will bring contract recommendations for renewal to the next School Committee meeting.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce presented the following: First Reading

- BDA - School Committee Organizational Meeting
- BDA-E School committee norms and standards
- LJNDC - Internet Web Page Policy

Mr. Curro exited the meeting at 8:03, during the discussion of the second readings.

- *Second Reading*

- *BBBE- Unexpired Term Fulfillment*
- *BBBE-E Application To Fill A Vacancy on The Arlington School Committee*

Mr. Pierce moved to approve BBBE- Unexpired Term Fulfillment and BBBE-E Application To Fill A Vacancy on The Arlington School Committee, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0-1, Mr. Curro abstained.

Budget

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe said the next Budget Subcommittee meeting would be March 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Community Relations

Ms. Leba Heigham said no meeting is scheduled yet until she receives the 2012-2013 School Calendar from Dr. Bodie so the Community Relations can review it before it is brought to the full School Committee for approval.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability

Mr. Jeff Thielman has no report but thanked all his colleagues.

Chair

Mr. Thielman moved to have Ms. Starks replace Mr. Curro to the ASC Negotiations Committee for AEA Unit C and Cafeteria workers, seconded by Dr. Allison-Ampe

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Hayner authorizes the chair, Ms. Starks, to sign and send the following letter Mr. Curro drafted to the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, and the Finance Committee, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past two months, the School Committee has been engaged in a pilot program on board governance sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. In a series of facilitated retreats, we took a hard introspective look at how we operate as a deliberative body and how we relate to one another and our administration.

The result of this work has been the drafting of a set of standards and norms which we have all agreed to and which we will ask future Committee members to sign on to as well. We are pleased to attach the result of our work here.

This process was very valuable and invigorating, and we believe that it could serve as a valuable model for the further development of standards and norms for communication and cooperation between our various boards.

Some areas which might be addressed include:

- Prior consultation on the scheduling of important meetings in which attendance of representatives of our respective committees is valuable or required.
- Mutual agreement on topics of discussion for such meetings.
- Escalation procedures for matters that are brought to one board's attention which either require the review or are properly under the purview of another committee or department.
- Expectations and preparation for joint working sessions.
- Regular communications checkpoints.

There are no doubt further areas of discussion relating to our ongoing collaboration, which would be of great value.

We would like to propose that each of our boards and committees designate two members, along with the Town Manager and Superintendent, to participate in a working group to develop a set of written standards and norms for joint adoption by our three committees.

As we prepare to seat new chairs and both a new Board of Selectmen and School Committee, this appears to be an opportune time to consider new ways in which we can better serve the residents of Arlington in a cooperative and productive manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindy Starks, Chair
Arlington School Committee

Enc.: School Committee Standards and Norms

Mr. Hayner suggested the chair include the Kindergarten Advisory Subcommittee to the Subcommittee Agenda list for the next meeting.

Ms. Starks reminded those interested in serving as officers to the School Committee to send notification to both the chair and to the administrative assistant.

Consent Agenda

- *Approval of Warrant: none*
- *Approval of School Committee Minutes: February 9, 2012*
- *Approval of AHS Spanish students trip to Costa Rica, February 2013*

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Approval of School Committee Minutes: February 9, 2012 and Approval of AHS Spanish students trip to Costa Rica, February 2013, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham moved to table the Secretary's Report until March 22, 2012, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Executive Session

Mr. Curro moved to enter Executive Session at 8:18 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted and to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

Adjourn

Mr. Curro moved to exit out of Executive Session and to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham

Roll Call: Unanimous

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/jp*